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NSC BRIEFING

20 October 1959

ALGERIA - FRANCE

- I. We have received indications that official rebel contacts with French concerning cease-fire may be imminent.
  - A. According to rebel Vice Premier Belkacem Krim, cease-fire negotiations based on De Gaulle's proposals await only formal approval by rebel Revolutionary Council.
  - B. Krim says council, which is expected to meet soon will name three-man committee with full power to negotiate cease-fire.
- II. In Algeria, tension growing among European settlers, French army.
  - A. Security director for city of Algiers has stated that slightest provocation could send Europeans "into the streets." Unlike May 1958, however, cooperation between extremist settlers and army not too close.
  - B. Army torn between loyalty to De Gaulle and bitter hostility toward any cease-fire which does not involve rebel surrender of weapons.
  - C. Possible that De Gaulle not fully informed on sentiment in Algiers. When asked if De Gaulle aware of seriousness of situation, French official (Delegate-General Delouvrier) said, "One cannot tell everything to De Gaulle."

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III. Meanwhile, National Assembly endorsement of De Gaulle's Algerian policy by 441 to 23 vote on 15 October strengthens his position vis-a-vis rebels. Could, however, goad French rightist opposition to desperate measures.

A. Impotent in France proper, their last hope is for new wave of discontent from Algiers.

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